

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-26 are pending in the application. In an Office Action mailed June 10, 2005, Claims 25 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-10, 14 and 17-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,308,571 to Stanish et al.

By the present Amendment, Applicants amended Claims 1, 12, 13 and 25 and canceled Claims 10, 11, 22, 23 and 24. In view of the above claim amendments and the remarks that follow, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-9, 12-21, 25 and 26 are in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is requested.

With respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, Applicants amended Claim 25 to define a method step of "determining lengthwise shrinkage of the wood product based on the sound velocity measurement and the galactan measurement" in conformity with the suggestion of the Patent Office. The Patent Office indicated that Claims 25 and 26 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants assert that the amendments to Claim 25 render Claims 25 and 26 allowable. Notice to that effect is requested.

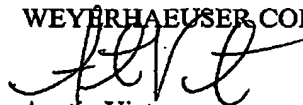
Applicants note with appreciation that the Patent Office indicated that Claims 11-13 and 15-16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants amended Claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of Claim 11. Applicants assert that Claim 1 is, therefore, allowable. Claims 2-21, which depend from Claim 1, are also considered allowable as they further define limitations of Claim 1. Thus, amendment of Claim 1 in this manner renders moot the rejection of Claims 1-10, 14 and 17-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Claims 22-24 were canceled; this renders moot the rejection of Claims 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

**CONCLUSION**

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request entry, reconsideration, and allowance of all currently pending claims. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if there are any remaining issues.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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